

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A set-top box, comprising:

a programmed processor;

a memory device storing an operating system, a browser program and a pop-up option palette program to operate on the programmed processor;

means for displaying an image on a video display, the image being associated with one of a plurality of operational contexts;

means for receiving user commands;

and wherein the pop-up option palette program operates to carry out the process of:

detecting receipt of a pop-up option palette command;

upon detecting receipt of the pop-up option palette command, overlaying the image on the display screen with a pop-up option palette displaying a plurality of selectable user options, the options having functions associated with the current operational context;

wherein the current operational context is selected from the plurality of operational contexts consisting of at least a home context, a TV context, an Email context, an events context, a settings & tips context, a movies context, an online context, a shortcut to services context, a program guide context and a favorites context;

wherein each of the plurality of user selectable options has a function of providing help for the current operational context;

wherein if the current operational context comprises one of a home context, a program guide context, a TV context, and an Email context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of adding a current channel to a favorites list, printing to a printer, and providing a shortcut to services;

wherein if the current operational context comprises one of a settings & tips context and an events context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of providing a shortcut to services and printing to a printer;

wherein if the current operational context comprises a movies context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of playing a movie, rewinding a movie, forwarding a movie and stopping the functions of playing, rewinding and forwarding;

wherein if the current operational context comprises an online context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of adding a page to a favorites list and initiating a keyword search;

wherein if the current operational context comprises a shortcut to services context; then user selectable options provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational context;

~~wherein if the current operational context comprises a shortcut to services context; then the user selectable options provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational context;~~

wherein if the current operational context comprises a settings & tips context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of showing the user operational tips and permitting the user to change operational settings; and

wherein if the current operational context comprises a favorites context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of choosing a group of favorites, moving to a previous favorites group, moving to a next favorites group, changing favorites and adding a channel to a favorites group;

detecting a subsequent receipt of the pop-up option palette command; and

upon detecting the subsequent receipt of the pop-up option palette command, removing the overlaying the image from the display screen.